

MASONS

Another aspect of building that flourished in Midway was that of masonry. Many men brought this skill with them when they came to the valley, while others learned it as they grew in Wasatch Valley.

Stone cutting and masonry were tedious jobs, done in the early days with hand tools only. One stone cutter is said to have worked ten weeks with hammers and chisels on a stone, only to have it crack and prove worthless for the job for which it was intended. Many men worked more than 10 hours a day in hard stone to earn three dollars' pay per day.

The Midway area had many quarries and rock fields, as well as a flourishing brick making industry. Much of the rock native to Midway was "pot rock" or limestone formed in warm springs of the area.

The old Co-op Store, church buildings, the school house, the Town Hall both the old and new and Thomas Hair's store are some products of the stone masons. Rocks in these buildings were chipped by hand to the proper size.

In the 1930's, when the present Town Hall was constructed, work had advanced to rock sawing. Stones were gathered from surrounding fields and brought to the masons. Work was measured in terms of "perch." Perch for ordinary labor was sixteen cubic feet of rock. It was 21 cubic feet for government measure. Stone from the fields of Joseph Galli, Joseph Shelton and John Zweifel went into the Town Hall, while the First Ward Chapel was constructed of rock obtained from John U. Buehler's pasture.

Masons of note through the years have included John Watkins, Joseph Watkins, Frederick Haueter Jr., Fred O. Haueter, Harry Bircumshaw, John Zweifel, John and Henry Van Wagoner, Johannes Sonderegger, Simon Huber, John Glassinger, George Watkins and Thomas Bonner.